As will be apparent to those skilled in the art, various modifications and adaptations are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. An ergonomic handle comprising:

an elongate member having a proximal end and an opposite distal end, the elongate member being connectable to a tool or device; and

a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the proximal end wherein the thumb support member accommodates a user's thumb as the user grasps the elongate member in one hand.

2. The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the elongate member of the handle.

3. The handle as claimed in claim 2 wherein the thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb.

4. The handle as claimed in claim 3 wherein the support surface is generally concave.

5. The handle as claimed in claim 2 wherein the support member defines a generally concave recess having a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

6. The handle as claimed in claim 5 wherein the recess is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb.

7. The handle as claimed in claim 6 wherein the elongate member comprises a first thin portion near the proximal end, a second thin portion near the distal end, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

8. A knife comprising:

a blade member having a cutting edge; and

a handle comprising:

an elongate member having a blade end and an opposite distal end, the handle being connected to the blade member at the blade end; and

a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the blade end for accommodating a user's thumb as the user grasps the handle.

9. The knife as claimed in claim 8 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the handle.

10. The knife as claimed in claim 9 wherein the thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb.

11. The knife as claimed in claim 10 wherein the support surface is generally concave.

12. The knife as claimed in claim 9 wherein the support member defines a generally concave recess having a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

13. The knife as claimed in claim 12 wherein the recess is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb of an average adult.

14. The knife as claimed in claim 13 wherein the elongate member comprises a first thin portion near the proximal end, a second thin portion near the distal end, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

15. A hand implement comprising:

an tool member for performing the particular function of the implement; and

a handle comprising:

an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the handle being connected to the tool member; and

a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the proximal end for accommodating a user's thumb as the user grasps the handle.

16. The hand implement as claimed in claim 15 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the handle.

17. The hand implement as claimed in claim 16 wherein the thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb.

18. The hand implement as claimed in claim 17 wherein the support surface is generally concave.

19. The hand implement as claimed in claim 16 wherein the support member defines a generally concave recess having a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

20. The hand implement as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cavity is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb.

21. The hand implement as claimed in claim 20 wherein the elongate member comprises a first thin portion near the proximal end, a second thin portion near the distal end, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

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